Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: WDM United Methodist Early Learning Preschool

Provider No.: 28368

Address: 720 Grand Ave, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

County: Polk

Director's Name: Amy Borness

On-Site Supervisor: Teresa Young

Phone Number: 5152798897

E-Mail: aborness@wdmumc.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/23/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/19/2026

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires these inspections be done at least every three years. The City of West Des Moines typically do these inspections annually.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

Health and Human Services

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:45 AM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:45 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:45 AM to 3:30 PM	
Thursday		8:45 AM to 3:30 PM	
Friday		8:45 AM to 12:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	8	12	65	0	85
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 9/23/26. The director was present for the entire inspection. The on-site supervisor was present for a portion of the inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

West Des Moines United Methodist Early Learning Preschool is located in the educational wing of the church on the corner of Eighth Street and Grand Avenue in West Des Moines. The program serves children 18 months in age to five years in age during the school year. Most of the children enrolled are at least two years old. The center will accept 18 month old children if the child was at least 18 months old by September 1st. There are a couple of options parents can choose from for their child to attend depending on the age of their child. There are morning and afternoon classes every day with the exception of Friday when there are only morning classes. The program uses five classrooms (rooms 104, 108, 204, 208, and 210, although 210 is currently being used as the "lunch buddy" room again this year) on two levels of the church and they use the Creative Learning Curriculum in their teachings. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 102 children.

The program is overseen by a Board of Directors made up of parents, church members, and church staff. Amy Borness is the director of this program as of 7/2023. Amy has a Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working in child care and the school system. The on-site supervisor is Teresa Young. Teresa has been with the program since 1998 and is also the lead teacher in one of the classrooms. Both individuals meet the qualifications for their positions.

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NUTRITION: The center picks out the snack items and then parents sign up to bring those items for their child's classroom each day. For "Lunch Buddies", children who attend more full days eat at the center and parents are responsible for providing their child's lunch. All snack items on the monthly calendar met CACFP requirements. If a parent brings in an item that is not on the CACFP approved list, the center will need to supplement. Children eat in their classrooms and/or in the "lunch buddy" classroom. There was one issue with a box of crackers not being sufficiently sealed while being stored.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: Four and five year old children go on one walking field trip every year to the nearby elementary school and two field trips away from the center. Parents are responsible for getting their child to/from these two field trips away from the center.

PLAYGROUND: The center utilizes the same playground and outdoor space during the school year that another summer program in the same building utilizes during the summer months. The center also has a large concrete area where they use cones to block off specific areas for play and a large grassy area for more outdoor large motor activities. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted. There are trees that provide shade.

During the inspection, children were observed wrapping up their preschool day and being picked up by their parents and/or other authorized individuals. The "lunch bunch" classroom was observed eating their lunches in that classroom. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily. All bottles with substance/liquid in them should be labeled. Diapering tables are being disinfected after each use.

For more challenging child behaviors, staff practice speaking calmly to children and using positive guidance and redirection. Staff are also taught to know when they might need a short break. The director routinely goes into classrooms for observation and support. Schedules for children are adjusted if needed. The center also partners with parents for consistency and to attempt to get these type of behaviors more under control and to decrease hopefully over time. The center also utilizes other community supports as needed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is working with their CCR&R consultant in regards to IQ4K participation. The center also participates in QPPS as well as ECERS. Finally, the center also partners with the West Des Moines School District for Universal Preschool.

The center has an indoor play space for when weather does not permit outdoor play.

Communication between staff and parents is highly stressed. Staff meetings are held two times a month. Parent Teacher Conferences are held two times a year. There is one home visit scheduled a year for Pre-K children as well as an open house night at the preschool. In addition to the open house night, the center also puts on a science fair night and two music programs. Parents receive several newsletters/updates about their child and classroom each month.

The center has their own website as well as a Facebook page that provide additional information about the program.

Several tenured staff members work at the center and a few new staff. There is a good mix.

The director and on-site supervisor are organized. The director also her NAC and NAEYC membership.

There is a secure entrance into the building. Security cameras are in place outside and the main hallways.

The director and the on-site supervisor believe staff work well together. Staff are passionate about their jobs.

Within the past year, a new outdoor sidewalk to the playground was installed. New water filters were also installed.

Enrollment has again increased over the past year indicating a need in the community.

This center has been in operation for 53 years.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
All bottles that have a substance/liquid in them should be labeled.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
There was one issue with a box of crackers not being sufficiently sealed while being stored.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last tested 12/23/21 - 12/26/21. Radon levels in classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years. RADON TESTING IS DUE AGAIN NO LATER THAN THE END OF 12/2026.

The annual boiler inspection expires on 12/31/26.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The center sent in their application with payment on 9/8/26.

The CACFP smart phone app was shared with the director and the on-site supervisor. It is recommended this also be shared with parents.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff appear to have I - Power profiles and uploading training certificates.

It is recommended that cameras also be installed in classrooms.

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Date: 09/25/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.